

WASL's name changes to HSPE and is a little shorter, but is much the same next year

With the new Superintendent of Public Instruction, sweeping changes to the Washington Assessment for Student Learning (WASL) were expected. This next school year, though, we anticipate that the **assessment will be quite similar** to what we've experienced in the past, according to an April 6th Washington Assessment Weekly, an assessment coordinator bulletin.

For starters, high school students will **still be required** to take the State assessments and to meet standard in reading and writing to graduate.

The High School Proficiency Exams (HSPE), which was formerly the WASL, for **grades 10, 11, and 12**, will continue to be a paper/pencil test in 2010. **The State has shortened the tests**, requiring fewer test administration sessions than the 2009 spring tests. Except for Writing, subject area tests are single-session tests taking approximately 120 minutes each. All tests are still untimed, as students will be able to continue to work if they need more time.

The administration dates are as follows:

- Reading: Tuesday, March 16 (one 120-minute session);
- Writing: Wednesday and Thursday, March 17-18 (two 120-minute sessions);
- Mathematics: Tuesday, April 13 (one 120-minute session); and
- Science: Thursday, April 15 (one 120-minute session).

In a March 30th press release, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction explained that **students in the classes of 2009 through 2012 who do not pass the high school math WASL (HSPE)** on their first attempt can meet the math graduation requirement by **earning two math credits after 10th grade**. Those students are no longer required also to take a math assessment every year. This change, however, does not remove the requirement for students to take the math test in their 10th grade year. Beginning with the Class of 2013, all students must pass a math assessment to be eligible to graduate.

Testing electronically was another anticipated change. Beginning in spring, 2010, for **grades 3-8**, the former WASL, which is now called the Measurement of Student Progress (MSP), will be available in two formats: paper/pencil and online. Test administration windows are later in the spring than this year.